

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 12855 220759Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8712

S E C R E T CAIRO 12855

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ATHERTON

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SA, EG, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI AND IRANIAN TRAINING FOR EGYPTIAN PILOTS

REF: (A) STATE 300213; (B) STATE 298460; (C) STATE 300207

REPORTING JIDDA 8358; (D) CAIRO 12854

1. AT THE END OF OUR MEETING WITH SADAT DECEMBER 21 (SEPTEL), I TOOK THE OCCASION TO MENTION THE TRAINING PROGRAM. I RECALLED THAT WHEN THE PRESIDENT WAS IN THE U.S. YOU HAD MENTIONED THE MATTER OF EGYPTIAN PILOT TRAINING IN SAUDI ARABIA AND PROPOSED TRAINING IN IRAN AND THE PROBLEM THIS POSES FOR US. AS SADAT KNEW, WE NEED TO PREPARE THE GROUNDWORK AND CONSULT THE CONGRESS. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT CONGRESS COULD WRONGLY CONCLUDE, IF SUCH TRAINING CONTINUES, THAT DECISIONS ON AIRCRAFT SALES HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE. THIS COULD CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS. I HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH PRINCE SULTAN AND SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE IN ALL OF OUR INTERESTS NOT TO JEOPARDIZE OUR LONGER TERM OBJECTIVES BY SUCH TRAINING AT PRESENT. I HAD SUGGESTED IT BE SUSPENDED. SULTAN HAD INDICATED HE COULD DO SO ONLY IF SADAT REQUESTED IT.

2. SADAT RECALLED THAT YOU HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER IN A GENERAL MANNER WITH HIM, ALTHOUGH HE WAS UNDER SECRET

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IMPRESSION YOU HAD TALKED ONLY ABOUT IRAN, NOT SAUDI

ARABIA. HE, SADAT, HAD INDICATED THAT HE HAD UNDERSTOOD. UPON HIS RETURN TO CAIRO, HE HAD SENT WORD TO THE SHAH TO DEFER ANY SUCH PROGRAM. THE SHAH HAD RECENTLY AGAIN APPROACHED HIM ON THE SUBJECT, BUT HE HAD AGAIN SENT THE SAME REPLY.

3. I NOTED THAT THE SAUDI PROGRAM IS ALREADY GOING ON. SADAT OBSERVED IT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED AFTER HIS VISIT. HE HAD NO OBJECTION, HOWEVER, TO SUSPENDING IT. HE DID NOT WISH ANY SUCH MINOR MATTER TO STAND IN THE WAY OF MORE BASIC OBJECTIVES.

4. ALLUDING TO SULTAN'S COMMENT THAT SADAT SHOULD MAKE THIS REQUEST, THE PRESIDENT OBSERVED, "THIS IS THE ARAB WAY." HE UNDERTOOK (A) TO INFORM THE SAUDIS ABOUT THE NEED TO SUSPEND THE PROGRAM AND (B) TO INSTRUCT GAMASY TO WITHDRAW THE TRAINEES.

5. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT PASS THIS MESSAGE TO JIDDA AND TEHRAN.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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